necessary changes if the conditions obtaining in the States allow such changes before any Parliamentary legislation could be considered. Some of the State Governments have made laws for uniform compulsory registration of marriages. However, the National Population Policy, 2000 has set the target of compulsory registration of marriages, by 2010.

Expenses in Conducting Election of State Assemblies

1858. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission (EC) of India has been granted autonomy in formulating their financial budget and incurring expenses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all expenses relating to conduct of elections, including cost of forces. deployments, media publicity/announcements, administrative and Central observers' deployment costs, for State Assemblies are incurred by the Election Commission;

(d) if so, State-wise details of expenses incurred by EC towards conduct of Assembly elections held during 2003 and 2004;

(e) if liability of EC is limited to certain portion(s) of the total poll expenses, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of remaining expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The budget of election Commission of India is reflected under Demand No. 62 and included in the Detailed Demands for Grants of Ministry of Law & Justice and voted by the Parliament.

(c) Expenses relating to conduct of elections, including cost of forces, deployments, media publicity/announcements, administrative and central observers' deployment costs are met by the State Governments concerned. However, as per Government of India's Policy, conduct of General Elections to Lok Sabha, expenses are reimbursed fully by the Central Government; for election of the State Leigslative Assemblies expenses are fully borne

by the State Governments and, for simultaneous elections, the expenses are shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and State Governments.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Practise by relatives of High Court judges

1859. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken/proposed to be taken by Government with regards to remedial measures for effective functioning of judiciary in response to the report submitted by the Bar Council of India recently to the Ministry listing 131 out of 499 Judges in 21 High Courts of india, who are having their relatives practising in the same courts, which is in violation of rules and creates doubts in the public mind about the Judges' fairness;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) No report has been submitted by the Bar Council of India recently. They had provided High Court wise details earlier in regard to Judges whose relative(s) were practicing in High Courts.

2. Clauses 6 of the Bar Council of India Rules provides as follow:

> "6. An Advocate shall not enter appearance, act, plead or practice in any way before a Court, Tribunal or Authority mentioned in Section 30 of the Act, if the sole or any member thereof is related to the Advocate as father, grandfather, son, grand-son, uncle, brother, nephew, first cousin, husband, wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-low, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law or sister-in-law.
>
> For the proposes of this rule, Court shall mean a Court, Bench or tribunal in which above mentioned relation of the Advocate is a Judge, Member or the Presiding Officer."

2.1 In terms of the Advocates Act 1961, powers for taking any disciplinary action against advocates vest in either the State Bar Council or the Bar Council of India.